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Dean Stone of Midland, journey line technician at Union Power Cooperative, raises the U.S. flag at the N.C. State Fairgrounds. (Photo by Michael Gery)



first person

Hey, that's my electric utility!

By Michael E.C. Gery, editor



So you're driving down the highway, and you see a billboard that says, "Heroes are part of our electric co-op," and you feel proud that you, too, are part of an electric co-op.

Or you're watching "60 Minutes" on TV and here comes a farmer talking about his Touchstone Energy electric cooperative, and at the end of the ad you see your co-op listed.

Or you're looking at Reader's Digest and you see a story about a South Carolina electric cooperative that is bringing business to its region.

Or you're at an ACC basketball game and you see a full-page ad in the program saying sports fans are part of Touchstone Energy cooperatives. Or you're at a Carolina Hurricanes hockey game, and they announce that the 'Canes are in a "Touchstone Energy Power Play."

Hey now. Touchstone Energy is everywhere.

The Touchstone Energy idea arose among electric cooperatives about five years ago when it looked pretty clearly as though some day consumers will have a choice of their electric power provider in some way or another. The idea was to attach a "brand" to electric cooperatives nationwide, so we all know that we are in the same boat – that a co-op in Iowa is paddling alongside ours in North Carolina – and that we all represent the same ideals, that we help each other in all kinds of weather, and that we're looking to reach the same place.

The name is out there now, and people are taking notice of it.

I was talking to a man from Milwaukee, of all places, not long ago, and when I told him I am with the North Carolina electric cooperatives, he said, "Oh. Touchstone Energy."

I said, "That's right." (Instead of, "Oh! You've heard of us?")

He said he has a cabin in upper Michigan and he gets the Michigan cooperatives' magazine and he sees the Touchstone Energy ads on TV. He wishes his co-op would supply his service in the city.

The word is out. Touchstone Energy is the national network of local, member-owned electric cooperatives that serve all customers, the large ones and the small ones. Joining the network requires cooperatives to invest in the promotional campaign and to adhere to four core values: integrity, innovation, accountability, and commitment to community. And I must say, they do a pretty good job of abiding by those values (see pages 12-14).

The ads say simply that all kinds of people are part of electric cooperatives. So when you see those billboards or magazine and TV ads, you can tell yourself or whoever is with you that you are part owner of that fine-looking utility.



Even poor varieties may be made sweet

While learning how to can fruits and vegetables for the holidays, I visited several elderly neighbors for ideas. One lady, Dorothy, age 76, gave a lot of "hands on" information. She also gave me several oddly-shaped antique canning jars with an old paperback canning booklet. By coincidence, the picture of jars on the front cover were identical to the ones she gave me! Inside were numerous numbered "how-to," black and white picture directions for canning. (They looked as if they were taken in the 1920s or 1930s).

These directions were on the inside back cover.

"How to Preserve a Husband"

Be careful in your selection. Do not choose too young. When selected, give your entire thoughts to preparation for domestic use. Some wives insist upon keeping them in a pickle, others are constantly getting them into hot water. This may make them sour, hard, and sometimes bitter; even poor varieties may be made sweet, tender and good, by garnishing them with patience, well sweetened with love and seasoned with kisses. Wrap them in a mantle of charity. Keep warm with a steady fire of domestic devotion and serve with peaches and cream. Thus prepared, they will keep for years.

Betty Honeycutt

Troy

Randolph EMC

Their husbands

We published by mistake last month the wrong picture with Mrs. Hatley's story and omitted the story for Mrs. Moss' picture. We regret the error. The following is correct.

My husband, our father and grandfather, Richard Moss

He has been my companion and friend for 45 years. He has devoted his life to making my life easier and happy. We have been through sickness and very hard times in raising a family of three children. Dale, Chris and Elizabeth were true blessings. Also, he welcomed my two brothers into our home as teenagers and helped them get their education. He has taken extra jobs to pay bills and even groceries. He has always helped other family members with hardships. I married him at 16 years old, and he was only 18.

Cancer struck my body two years ago. This was even another battle for him. But with God's love we pulled together as a family.

Our family has been blessed to have him as a husband, father and granddaddy. He has set good qualities for us. His heart is full of love for his four grandchildren. He is the rock of our hill and the root of our family tree.

Faye K. Moss
Kittrell
Wake EMC



My husband, J.D., honest and faithful

I met J.D. Hatley in the small town of Stanfield, N.C., on a Sunday afternoon. We were out with friends. We made a date for that night and dated for 1½ years. We were married May 7, 1949, by Rev. Brooks Jerome.

J.D. was a very quiet person, didn't talk much, didn't look for faults in others. Never complained about food or clothing. Slow to anger and didn't hold grudges. Someone said he was a gentleman; he was also a gentle man.

He served his country for two years. He worked for Cannon Mills 43 years, starting as sweeper, then oiler, fixer and finally supervisor.

J.D.'s wants were few. If he needed something he bought it. He could fix almost everything. He lived by the old saying, "If it isn't broken, don't fix it."

He loved his family, church and mission where he lived all his life, except the time in military service. He loved the outdoors, building pasture fences for his cattle, gardening and riding his John Deere tractor. He loved his pastor Dr. Ronny Russell, his Sunday School class teacher Tony Benoy.

His main goal in life was to be honest, take care of his family and help others.

He was a loving son to his parents, making sure his mother's needs were met for 17½ years after his father's death. An excellent father to our three children, and a super grandfather to our two grandchildren and a gem of a husband for 51½ years.

He died Nov. 4, 2000, just five days from the 53rd anniversary of our meeting.

He wanted so much to get well, but the cancer was stronger than he was.

I know he's in a better place, but he is missed dearly. Each day when I count my blessings, I thank God for the years I had with him.

Doris W. Hatley
Stanfield
Union Power Cooperative

No beans about it

My 5-year-old great-granddaughter is very strong-minded. She knows what she likes and doesn't like and will let you know.

On one of her visits this year, she told me she was hungry and would like a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. After I fixed her one and gave it to her, she took a bite and brought it back to me.

"Grandma," she said, "I don't like beans in my sandwich."

I had used the crunchy type peanut butter, not the smooth she was used to. No amount of explaining could get her to eat the sandwich with "beans" in it.

Melba Litz
Concord
Union Power Cooperative



first person

Here's Johnny

This picture of my husband, Johnny, was taken when he was 90 years old and ready for church at Christmas 2000. He turned 91 on October 18, 2001. He was a model on TV for 25 years for Tate Brown in Charlotte. They would say "Heeere's Johnny" even before Johnny Carson. He went into the service when he was 25 and served on the front lines for two years. He still exercises, walks every day that weather permits and does yard work. He has a good appetite and reads his Bible every day. He loves TV and falls asleep while watching it.



Estelle Earnhardt
Gastonia

Safe cracker

Noura Lynn Mouradi loves the international foods her mother makes. Her favorites are sushi and crab legs.

Once, a small piece of crab leg shell landed in her eye. Her mom removed it, and we thought it would be the end of her crab leg eating days.

But her Grandpa, my husband Charles, saved the day. He can fix anything. And he is a big believer in safety glasses. Now look at how Noura concentrates on getting to that crabmeat. She's really working up a sweat. (It would help if she used the correct end of the cracker.)

Doris W. Sheen
Wake Forest
Wake Electric



Patriot

P.J. Phillips, age 3, of Warrensville

My best friend

Growing up, it is always good to have a best friend.

Sometimes, I wish that we could go back to our younger days when Amber and I would stay up until the wee hours of the morning, talking nonstop. (She's in this picture on the right.) I miss our walks in the woods, our version of a beauty pageant, and especially all of the softball games in the back yard.

Although I am married now and Amber is in college, I have realized how much good that it does for me to remember my childhood. But it is even better when I slow down and be a kid myself.

Jennifer Parker
Union Mills
Rutherford Electric



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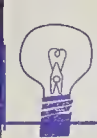
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Is the proposed satellite TV merger good for consumers?



By Bob Phillips

America's two direct broadcast satellite (DBS) carriers plan to merge. The rural consumer needs to ask, "Am I in jeopardy of losing my affordable, high-quality satellite TV service?" and, even more importantly, "Am I in danger of losing affordable future services, such as competitive broadband Internet services?" The dangers are very real if the companies complete their deal in its current form.

In late October 2001, General Motors agreed to sell Hughes Electronics Corp. to EchoStar Communications Corp. The deal would leave EchoStar in control of the Hughes DIRECTV service as well as its own DISH Network. Currently the two compete for subscribers. There is no third firm of any consequence. Before that merger can occur, however, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Communications Commission must review the proposal and make sure its anti-competitive aspects are bearable. Those agencies have the option to approve the merger as proposed, block it on antitrust grounds, or require changes to protect competition before the merger would be approved.

While the merging companies claim that combining DIRECTV and DISH Network capacities will lead to more choices, better services and more local channels, many independent observers wonder how reducing the number of providers can ever improve choices or competition.

Would a merged company actually provide nationwide pricing, and if so would that include all services, or only some? And what impact would the removal of competitive pressure have on new service offerings? Currently, EchoStar and DIRECTV offer alternative video programming and use those differences as a key part of their marketing and sales

efforts. In the future, rural America will see only what EchoStar chooses for them to see.

The merger is likely to hit rural households in the pocket-book by forcing them to purchase new set-top boxes. DIRECTV and the DISH Network use different technologies. A single DBS provider likely will eliminate one of those technologies, which means that about half of all current satellite TV subscribers will have to replace their set-top boxes. There is also the possibility of a transition to a single next-generation technology, requiring all customers to need new equipment. EchoStar/Hughes claim that consumers will not bear this cost, but the details of this transition are far from clear, and there are hints that only the "basic" box – not a box with features – will be provided free of cost.

There are almost 17 million U.S. households subscribing to satellite TV. Many of those viewers are in states where cable TV does not reach low-population areas. For example, 41 percent of households in Vermont and 39 percent in Montana subscribe to satellite TV. Significantly more than a quarter of the households in states including Wyoming, Mississippi, Arkansas, and North Dakota rely on DBS.

The proposed satellite TV monopoly would have a severe impact on rural viewers. Rural consumers must be vigilant and vocal if they are to ensure that federal authorities and business leaders that are shaping this deal will not overlook their interests.

To register your opinion with NRTC, send e-mail to satellitettv@nrtc.org.

Bob Phillips is president and chief executive officer of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative, based in Herndon, Va. NRTC supports more than 1,000 rural utilities in delivering telecommunications and information technology solutions to their communities. These NRTC members serve more than 20 million customers in areas of the country that have been unserved or underserved by traditional utilities and other businesses. For more information, visit NRTC's Web site at www.nrtc.org.

Got talent? Show it in Williamston on Jan. 10



North Carolina's Touchstone Energy electric cooperatives and Smith Productions of Charlotte are seeking talent for a 13-episode TV series that will run statewide next spring on UNC-TV. The "Carolina Calling" series will be a variety show that will spotlight native North Carolina music and talent.

"Carolina Calling" is interested in discovering new talent and will host one more regional Touchstone Energy Carolina Calling Talent Search. So far they have been held in Wingate, Hickory, Chapel Hill and Morehead City. The remaining talent search will be held Jan. 10 at the Bob Martin Agricultural Center in Williamston. The show begins at 7 p.m. and is free of charge.

All North Carolina residents are eligible. Entry blanks are available at all electric cooperative offices statewide and can be downloaded from the Carolina Country Web site at www.carolinacountry.com. All entries and an audio or videotape must be mailed to Smith Productions, P. O. Box 472341, Charlotte, NC 28247. For additional information, call Clay Smith (704) 366-9384.



Coach Herman Boone (left) and EnergyUnited's Chief Operating Officer Wayne Wilkins flank some of the teachers who received EnergyUnited Bright Ideas grants this fall.

"Remember the Titans" coach says remember the teachers

A highlight of the 2001 Bright Ideas Awards week in November was a visit to the state by Coach Herman Boone, who inspired the leading role in the movie "Remember the Titans." Boone spoke and made award presentations to teachers at events hosted by electric cooperatives in Charlotte, Winston-Salem and Greenville.

This year the state's 27 electric cooperatives made grants to approximately 320 teachers across North Carolina for special projects, and at least 70,000 students will benefit from enhanced educational experiences. Grants ranging up to \$2,000 each went to teachers in grades K-12 who presented winning proposals for innovative classroom instructional projects.

During each of his appearances, Coach Boone, who was played by Denzel Washington in the hit movie, stressed the important role teachers play in providing innovative classroom instruction, motivating students, teaching discipline and appreciation for diversity. Boone drew on his own experiences as a teacher and nationally recognized coach. He taught for several years in Williamston, N.C., before taking the head coaching position at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Va., during the integration of schools there in the early 1970s. His success in overcoming racial friction, rallying the community, and producing a state-champion football team prompted the movie.

Student athletes and teachers heard Coach Boone speak at Garinger High School in Charlotte at a presentation ceremony arranged by Union Power Cooperative of Monroe.

The same evening, Bright Ideas winners gathered at the Sawtooth Center in Winston-Salem for an awards banquet keynoted by Boone and arranged by the EnergyUnited cooperative. EnergyUnited presented grants totaling \$35,722 to 27 teachers in nine central North Carolina counties.

At a luncheon the next day in Greenville, seven eastern cooperatives (Albemarle, Cape Hatteras, Edgecombe-Martin County, Halifax, Pitt & Green, Roanoke and Tideland) hosted 100 teachers and school administrators at a luncheon featuring Coach Boone. They honored more than 40 Bright Ideas grant winners from their service areas.

What is a cooperative?

Part 3

Cooperatives worldwide function within the same principles. They are businesses that operate for the benefit of their members, instead of for financial profit. They abide by a common set of values and by seven principles. Each month through July, Carolina Country will describe the principles.

This month we describe the first principle.

Principle No. 1:

Voluntary and Open Membership —

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

N.C. energy cooperative ranks in the nation's top 100

North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC), the energy provider for the state's electric cooperatives, was ranked as the second largest energy and communications cooperative in the nation by the National Cooperative Bank (NCB) in Washington D.C.

The rankings are based on revenue earned in the year 2000. NCEMC, based in Raleigh, came in second with \$665 million in revenue. Overall, NCEMC was ranked as the nation's 55th largest cooperative.

The power generation cooperative provides electricity to 26 of the state's 27 electric cooperatives. North Carolina's electric cooperatives serve 2.4 million people in 93 of the state's 100 counties. North Carolina's electric cooperatives have more than \$3 billion in assets.

NCEMC provides power through a variety of sources. It holds a 28 percent ownership stake in the Catawba Nuclear plant in York, S.C. Power is also obtained through short and long term contracts with other electricity providers. Approximately 6 percent of its power comes from the Southeastern Power Administration, and NCEMC owns two peak generation plants on North Carolina's Outer Banks, one each on Hatteras and Ocracoke islands.

Topping the energy and communications sector was Oglethorpe Power Corporation of Tucker, Ga., which is outside Atlanta. Oglethorpe serves 39 electric cooperatives in Georgia and had revenues of \$1.2 billion. Overall, Oglethorpe was ranked as the 28th largest cooperative in the country by NCB.

Each year NCB ranks the nation's largest cooperatives. Numerous recognizable name brands are on the list including Ace Hardware, Sunkist, Land O'Lakes, Ocean Spray, Associated Grocers, and Blue Diamond (Almond) growers.



The Cooperative Difference

By Luann Dart

Richard Burris had never heard of a cooperative before he moved to Linwood in Davidson County and became a member of EnergyUnited just over a year ago. Now, he's a co-op convert.

"I thought all power companies were the same," Burris says. Then he visited the people who work at EnergyUnited, North Carolina's largest electric cooperative, and he discovered all power companies are not the same.

Co-ops are accountable to you

As Burris learned, cooperatives are owned and controlled by their customers. Each member has a voice and a vote in the co-op's activities. The cooperative is a true example of grass-roots involvement and democracy in action.

"It's just an attractive concept," says R.B. Sloan Jr., chief executive officer of EnergyUnited, headquartered in Statesville. "What could be better than serving yourself? I think the concept is particularly attractive to people who have never been involved in a co-op."

Burris believes cooperatives are more accountable to those they serve.

"I think it's kind of a neat idea that everybody owns a piece of the company, so to speak," Burris says. "I wish there were a lot more [cooperatives]. If there were a lot more and people would come together ... I think probably rates would be a little lower and service would be a little better."

Neighbors help neighbors

Applying the basic cooperative principles, North Carolinians embraced cooperatives more than 60 years ago to bring the brilliance of light into the mountains and dells and remote coastal areas that other electric companies bypassed.

When one neighbor helped another, they accomplished feats that one could

not do alone. As a Tennessee farmer declared in the 1940s: "Brothers and sisters, I want to tell you this. The greatest thing on earth is to have the love of God in your heart, and the next greatest thing is to have electricity in your house," according to a history on rural electrification, "The Next Greatest Thing."

The power of the people resounds in that voice. Applied beyond the neighborhood to the development of businesses across North Carolina, the cooperative concept has thrived. And because they reach beyond the meter to the member, electric cooperatives have a unique niche in today's energy market.

"The primary benefit (of being a cooperative member) is the very strong focus that we have on serving our customers at a level that exceeds what many other utility companies provide today," says Doug Johnson, chief executive officer of Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, headquartered in Lenoir. "We have a very strong focus on personal touch service."

It's what Blue Ridge Electric calls "delighting customers."

"[Members] have an opportunity to influence their cooperative. We're a democratic organization. We are very much open to customer input," Johnson says.

Members can have as much or as little control as they want, explains Carolyn Herr Watts, senior vice president of competitive strategies for the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation. "If you want to be involved, you can. If you just want to come to the meetings and vote, you can do that." Voluntary and open membership is one of seven basic co-op principles, along with democratic member control.

For example, Blue Ridge Electric's member advisory committees involve

Electric
cooperatives in
North Carolina
and nationwide offer
consumers advantages that
other utilities can't match in
the new energy market.

more than 100 co-op members throughout its service area. Co-op members serving on the committees have an ongoing dialogue with the co-op.

"We have a lot of ways that people can be involved in this organization," Johnson says. "That's attractive to people."

As a co-op member, Richard Burris elects a director to represent him on EnergyUnited's 18-person board. Those directors, who are members themselves, guide the co-op's policies and practices. It's one more link each electric co-op has to the communities it serves.

Commitment to community

While the primary mission of electric cooperatives is to provide reliable, affordable electricity, co-ops often have loftier goals.

"Our purpose is bigger than electricity," says Doug Johnson of Blue Ridge Electric. "Our purpose is to be so involved with our communities and the people that we serve that us being here creates a higher quality of life."

Co-ops continually invest in their communities, following another cooperative principle—concern for community. "We contribute resources and dollars to help our schools and our communities and our hospitals and just strengthening the fabric of our communities," Johnson says.

A co-op's connection to a community includes not only electrical service, but community involvement and economic development, too.

"It's a local connection and you just don't have that with these larger companies," says EnergyUnited's R.B. Sloan. "The people who work at the co-op are also part of the community, so there's a local commitment that you don't see from some of the other companies. Because of

that local connection, there's a commitment in a lot of different ways."

"Quite often, we hear people say we're the best corporate citizen in the county and that's by design. It's part of who we are," Johnson says. "We are this area, and we are the members who own this cooperative, and we see our role to utilize some of our resources to improve the quality of life. I think that's our competitive edge. It's people above profits. Our highest and most important value is serving people."

Margins are returned to members

Profits are another aspect that set cooperatives apart from other utilities.

If you look around North Carolina, or move from one community to another, you'll notice other types of electric utilities. Investor-owned utilities, such as Duke Energy and Carolina Power & Light, are owned by those who purchase stock in the company. These utilities generate and distribute electricity for a profit. Profits are shared with the stockholders, who are not necessarily customers of the company. And in some cities, the electric utility is owned by the city government, just as water and services may be owned by the city, to provide service to its residents.

"We have a very strong focus on personal touch service."

**Doug Johnson, CEO
Blue Ridge Electric**

Electric cooperatives operate as non-profit utilities to provide electricity to their members. Since electric cooperatives do not make a profit, a co-op's net margins, or what is left above expenses and reserves, do not belong to the corporation; they belong to the members. The



The job of manually registering annual meeting voters and ballots is now done by computer.

margins must either be used to improve or maintain operations, or be distributed to the members.

So, when all the expenses are paid, the cooperative's margins are credited to members in the form of capital credits. As the financial condition of your cooperative allows, you are paid these capital credits in cash or as credits on your monthly bill. In the meantime, your capital credits are your equity in the cooperative. Refunds are allocated according to the amount of business a member does with the cooperative—the more electricity used, the larger the capital credit refund.

So, when Richard Burris received a refund from EnergyUnited, he learned about another co-op principle—member economic participation.

(continued on page 14)



Fifty years ago (far left), cooperatives ran poles and lines into rural America. Today, many co-ops, such as Union Power Cooperative in Monroe (near left), serve increasingly urban areas.

A nationwide network of cooperatives

Consider other differences among electric utilities. Investor-owned utilities nationwide average 33 customers per mile of line and collect \$61,000 per mile of line. Municipal utilities average 43 consumers and collect \$71,000 per mile of line. Compare those figures to co-ops, which serve an average of six consumers per mile of line and collect annual revenue of approximately \$7,900 per mile of line.

While electric co-ops traditionally serve sparser populations across the country, they comprise America's largest electric utility network. More than 900 cooperatives nationwide serve 34 million customers in 46 states. Electric cooperatives own and maintain 2.3 million miles of line, covering three-quarters of the nation's land. North Carolina's 27 electric co-ops operate in 93 of the state's 100 counties. EnergyUnited is the third largest supplier of residential electricity in the state.

Those cooperatives serve their members most effectively by working together through local, regional, national and international structures, following another cooperative principle—cooperation among cooperatives. One example is how cooperatives respond to major outages after a storm or other disaster: co-ops not affected send their personnel to help the co-ops whose systems were damaged.

A distribution cooperative system includes the poles, wires, transformers, substations and other equipment used to deliver electric energy from a power supplier to the consumer. North Carolina's electric cooperatives purchase wholesale power through their statewide power supply cooperative, the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, formed in 1949. Because the co-ops deliver electricity locally, they are called distribution cooperatives. Sometimes their power lines are overhead, while others are buried underground. Each electric cooperative maintains its system to provide safe, reliable electricity to you day after day.

It's all part of the cooperative system that delivers 4 percent of the total electricity produced in the United States each year. Like other corporations, cooperatives pay state and local taxes (except for income taxes, because they are non-profit).

"People think of cooperatives as being small, isolated entities, but then they realize we do have that large national player aspect," says Carolyn Herr Watts at North Carolina's co-ops' state office. "We're also in the community, so we have something that I don't think anybody else has. We have the national reach with the local touch and that's something unique and very desirable."

Co-ops are innovative

"The future role of co-ops in a competitive industry, the success of the co-ops, will be closely aligned to us being able to respond to the needs of the members," Sloan says.

That means co-ops will continue to be flexible, responsive and innovative to compete in today's energy market. Electric cooperatives continually seek new technologies and new services to best meet the needs of their members.

Not only does Richard Burris power his computer with electricity from EnergyUnited, but he accesses the Internet through the co-op's HomeVantage program. And Blue Ridge Electric's subsidiary, Blue Ridge Energies, provides propane, heating fuels and related appliances and services.

By offering those types of comprehensive services, co-ops dedicate themselves to their members' needs as they have since they were formed. If their communities need, for example, propane or appliance repair or home security services, cooperatives can offer those services.

"I think cooperatives have a lot of unique opportunities," says Watts. As co-ops move toward a restructured energy delivery market nationwide, she said, an individual consumer may feel he's at the mercy of the marketplace. "They need to have somebody they can be able to trust ... With restructuring, consumers can feel very isolated and feel they may not be able to get the kind of deal that large users of electricity can. But by joining forces with others, they can become a marketplace player."

As that marketplace changes, the future of co-ops is extremely bright, Doug Johnson says: "We're here, working with the fabric. We're working with the leaders and being a vital part of shaping the future."

Richard Burris in Davidson County now shares in that future. "As it turns out," he says. "Co-ops really are a wonderful idea."

Luann Dart is a freelance writer who lives in North Dakota, where she is an electric cooperative member.

"I think it's kind of a neat idea that everybody owns a piece of the company, so to speak."

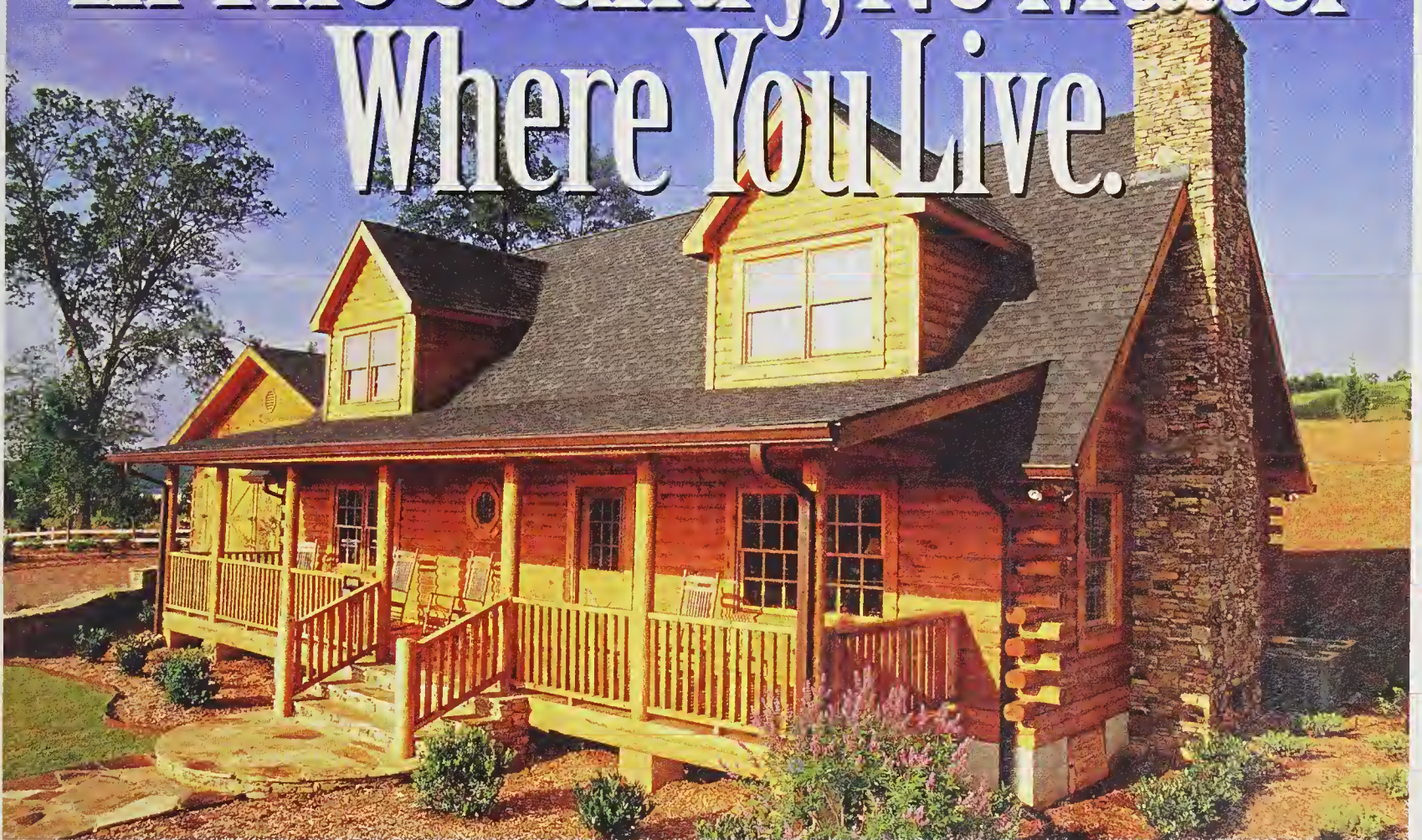
**Richard Burris, member
EnergyUnited**



They may dress less formally than they did in Decatur, Ala. in 1946, but cooperative members still enjoy participating in annual meetings, such as Haywood EMC's meeting last summer (right).



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Our electric co-op at work

Here is a selection of art sent to us by North Carolina schoolchildren. The theme was "our electric co-op at work." Thanks to everyone who entered drawings.

Next month we'll publish a selection of your ideas of "the best advice for young parents" to complement our North Carolina guide to child care options for working parents. [Deadline was Dec. 15.] For the other themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series, see page 18.

1

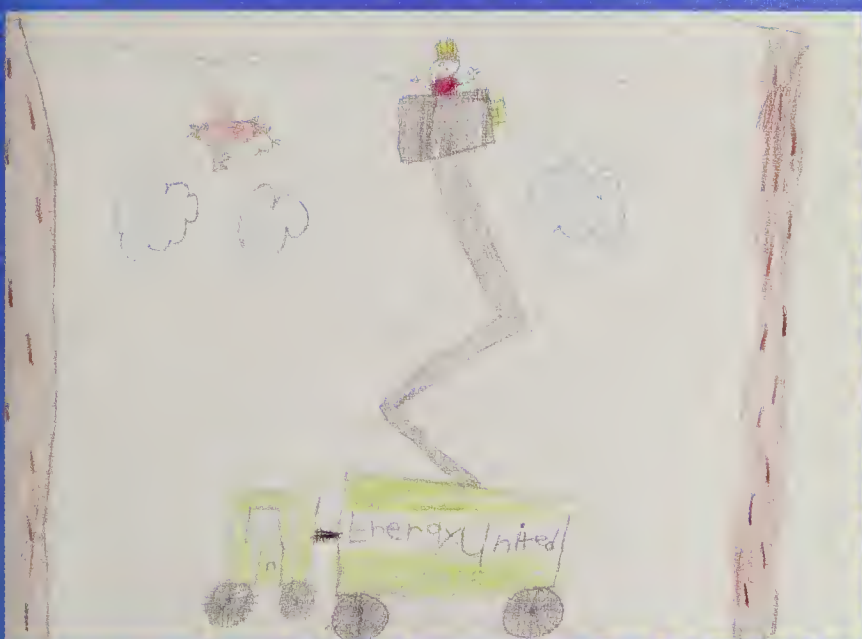


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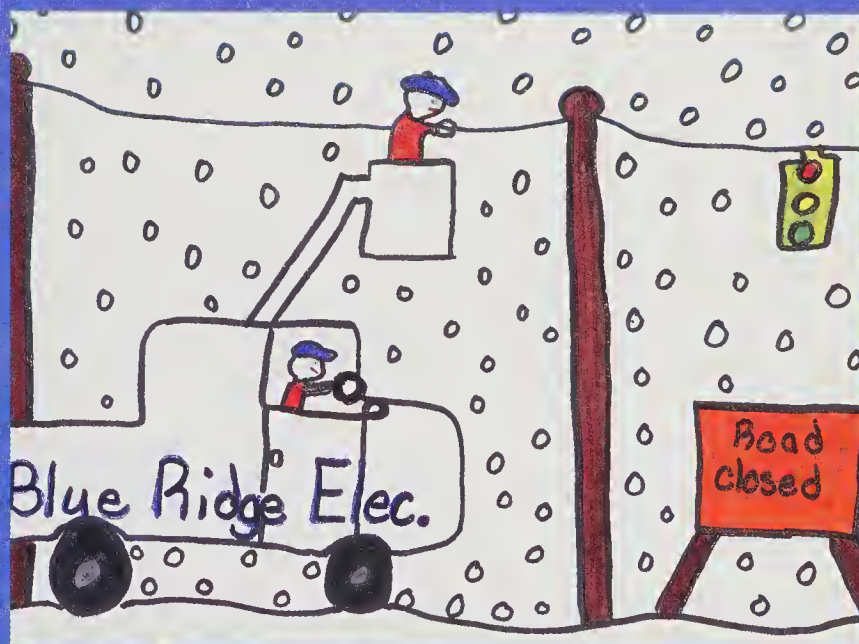


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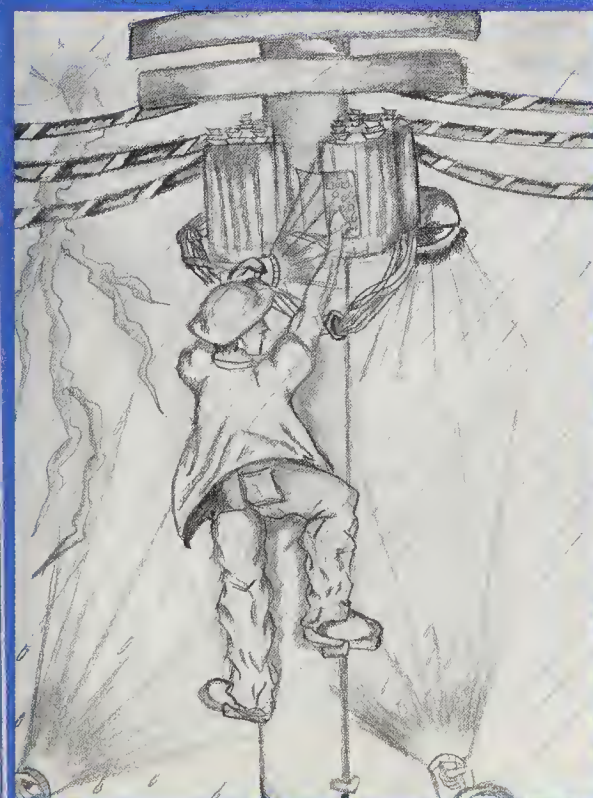
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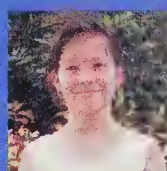
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7



8



1. Pee Dee Country
Ragan Franklin, age 13
Rockingham
Pee Dee Electric



2. Hey, kids!
Megan Linker, age 10
Indian Trail
Union Power Cooperative



3. Power for the Golden Leaf
Morgan Patillo
Burlington
Piedmont EMC



4. Birdwatching
Dakota Marlowe, age 6
Union Grove
EnergyUnited



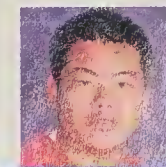
5. Blue Ridge Blizzard
Jessica Gentry, age 9
Alleghany County
Blue Ridge Electric



6. Strong Men
Karen Edwards, age 9
Alleghany County
Blue Ridge Electric

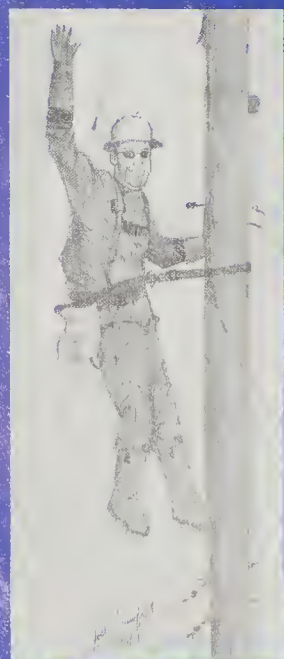
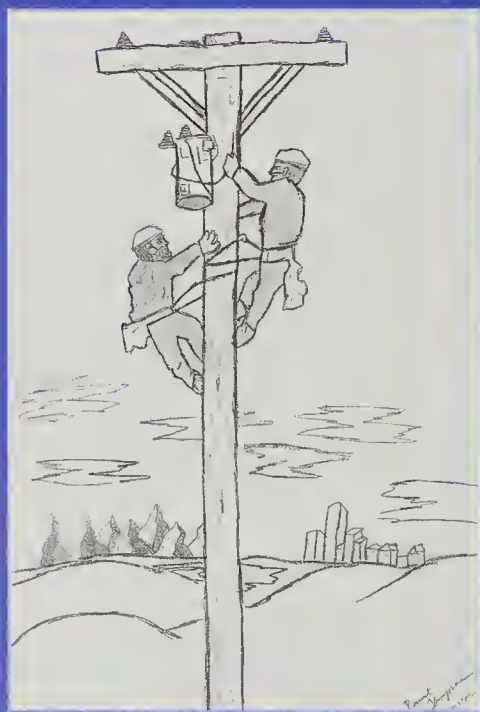


7. Night Shift
Bobby Calhoun, age 9
Alleghany County
Blue Ridge Electric



8. Lights On
Hue Vang, age 13
Albemarle Middle School
Union Power Cooperative

(continued on page 18)



9. High Ranger
Luke Culbertson, age 8
Weddington
Union Power Cooperative



10. Skyscrapers
Brent Thompson, age 12
Mt. Gilead
Randolph EMC

photo not
available

11. High Sign
Josh Crawford, age 14
Waynesville
Haywood EMC

Send us your best. Earn \$50.

Here are the themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series. Send us your stories and pictures. You don't have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

March 2002

"Best Garden I Ever Saw."
Send advice and photos if possible.
Deadline: Jan. 15

April 2002

"Best North Carolina Vacation I Ever Had."
Where, why and send pictures.
Deadline: Feb. 15

May 2002

"Why I Like Living in the Country."
Tell us where and what's good about it.
Deadline: March 15

June 2002

"The Funniest Story I Ever Heard"
True or not so true.
Deadline: April 15

July 2002

"How to Survive a Storm."
Your advice and memories about storms.
Deadline: May 15

August 2002

"My Funniest Pet Story."
Send pictures, too.
Deadline: June 15

September 2002

"My Favorite Photo."
Our annual photo gallery.
Deadline: July 15

October 2002

"How I Learned to Drive."
How good was the teacher, really?
Deadline: August 15

November 2002

"The Dumbest Thing I Ever Did."
And the lesson you learned afterwards.
Deadline: Sept. 15

December 2002

"Advice for Getting Older."
How can we age gracefully?
Deadline: Oct. 15

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. Only one entry per household per month.
3. Photos are welcome. Digital photos must be 300 dpi and actual size.
4. E-mail or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
5. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
6. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
7. We pay \$50 for each submission published.
8. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)
9. Send to Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616. Or by e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com. Or through the Web site: www.carolinacountry.com



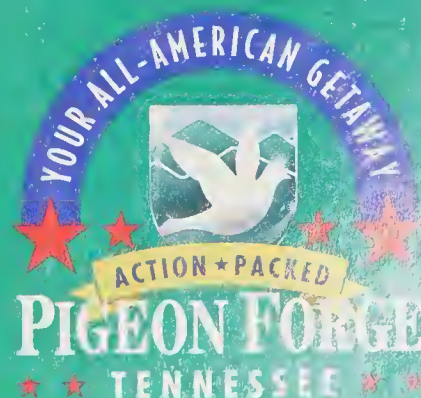
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Carolina County, January 2002

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R.B., Stover, MO.

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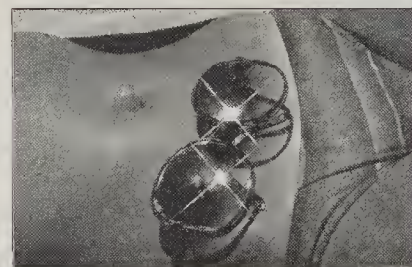
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For more information, visit the Web site, call 559-562-3110 or e-mail tomibro@ruraltreats.com.

Lexington native drives trucks and writes books

What do truckers, cooking, leg modeling, fashion and furniture have in common? Rotha J. Dawkins.

Dawkins' own publishing business, Your Treasure Publishing, recently released four new books, adding to the five already available in stores. New books include: "Red's Cookbook II," "Driving'n Dreaming," "Red High Heels II," and "Another Kind of Truck." Indicative of her spicy life, book topics range widely from cooking and romance to mystery and trucking. But this Lexington native didn't always plan on authoring books.

Dawkins went to school in New York for dress design. She paid for her schooling by modeling her legs, which landed her an appearance on the Johnny Carson Show. After opening three clothing stores in North Carolina, Dawkins switched to a product lauded in her home state and opened a furniture store on Long Island. She supplied some of the products herself, driving between North Carolina and New York in her 1979 Transtar cabover. Around this time, her love of trucking was born, along with her fondness for writing.

"I write Southern," said Dawkins. "My editor up North sometimes tries to change things, but I tell him to leave it, it's real."

Today the 61-year-old entrepreneur admits that although she still enjoys cooking, designing clothing, and driving the big rigs, she is most content when writing.

To order Dawson's books, call 1-800-365-BOOK.

Cowee Creek Pottery

Located in the Cowee Valley ruby mining area, Cowee Creek Pottery offers a wide variety of hand-thrown stoneware forms, both functional and decorative.

The shop is open year-round, seven miles north of Franklin on highway 28 in the historic old West Mill Store.

For more information, call (828) 524-3324.

New food distribution center to feed hungry

Food Runners Collaborative Inc. plans to build a 17,000-18,000 square foot building at the State Farmers' Market in Raleigh to serve thousands of hungry people in the Triangle area.

The \$3.5 million facility will house Food Runners Collaborative Inc., a joint organization created by Meals on Wheels and the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle. With its prime location, Food Runners hope to recover up to 250 tons of fresh produce per year for hunger relief.

"We think this is a win-win situation for the Farmer's Market, Food Runners Collaborative, and most importantly, the people of the Triangle," said Agriculture Commissioner Meg Scott Phipps. "If all goes well, we would like to consider expanding this concept to other farmer's markets across the state."

A cooperative effort between the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Food Runners, the center will serve Wake, Orange, Durham, Johnston, Chatham, Nash and Edgecombe counties.

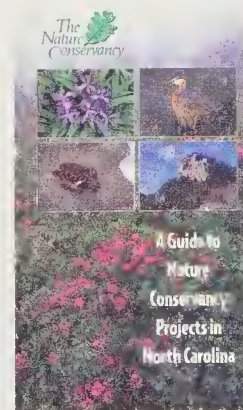
Guide showcases state's unspoiled natural areas

Hikers, paddlers, birders, photographers and general nature enthusiasts looking for information about natural areas can find them in "A Guide to Nature Conservancy Projects in North Carolina."

This portable book focuses on 51 of the state's natural treasures, including Nags Head Woods Preserve, Bluff Mountain Preserve, Grandfather Mountain, and the Black River. Each public area listed includes an overview of the ecological features, conservation history, ownership and access information, photos by well-known nature photographers, and directions to the site. Sites range from state parks and game lands to national wildlife refuges and national forests. The guide also includes a colorful foldout map of North Carolina pinpointing area locations.

Staff from The Nature Conservancy wrote and edited the book. All of the unique wild places mentioned fall under the organization's protection. This nonprofit conservation group has saved more than 476,000 acres in North Carolina.

To purchase a copy, stop by a North Carolina bookstore, call 800-222-9796, or visit www.blairpub.com. The book retails for \$9.95.



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We've begun stocking the shelves of the new Carolina Country Store. It's our way of showcasing and supporting the growing economy of the North Carolina countryside.

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The store is open 24 hours a day, every day, at www.carolinacountry.com.

An update on activities related to restructuring the electric utility industry

Consumer awareness and confidence in restructuring decline

Fewer consumers are aware of restructuring the electric industry than last year, according to an annual consumer awareness survey conducted in October by Deloitte and Touche.

Only 38 percent of those consumers surveyed said they were aware of restructuring in their state, compared to 51 percent a year ago.

Experts attribute the reversal in a 5-year trend of increasing awareness to various causes, including states putting their deregulation programs on hold, which limited public hearings and ratepayer education programs. A lack of national discussion on the topic as well as the events of Sept. 11 are also thought to explain the decrease in consumer awareness.

More than 55 percent of consumers, up slightly from last year, expect electric rates to increase during deregulation, while the number of those who thought prices would decrease declined.

With regard to the benefits of deregulation, 36 percent said they believed no benefits would be produced from deregulation, compared with 26 percent who thought lowered rates would result and 15 percent who said service would improve.

—Energy Business Watch; Electric Power Daily

Where do cooperatives stand nationally?

The electric cooperatives' perspective on the federal restructuring debate stems from their unique characteristics of consumer ownership and local control. Electric cooperatives want to ensure that American families and small businesses nationwide benefit from any federal or state changes in the regulation of the electric utility industry. Although the growing power of big companies to dominate markets and engage in self-dealing is an increasing threat to the average consumer, if the market is structured fairly, consumers everywhere can use the cooperative business model to protect themselves and foster true competition. — The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

How far has restructuring progressed?

At the federal level, electric utilities have traditionally been regulated as monopolies. This means that in states that have not passed electric utility restructuring legislation, utilities do not "compete" and are in fact forbidden to compete with other electricity providers for customers in their service territory.

In 1992, Congress restructured the wholesale electricity market with The Energy Policy Act of 1992. The 1992 Act opened the industry to competition in the wholesale electric power market — that is, the electric power that is bought and sold between utilities and other power generators. Competition at the wholesale level has spurred calls for competition at the retail level — the sale of energy and energy services directly to homes and businesses large and small.

As a result of the 1992 Act, there are more electric power

suppliers in today's market. Since passage of the 1992 Act and retail restructuring legislation in several states and the District of Columbia, many new electricity suppliers have emerged to compete with so-called "traditional" electric utilities in the wholesale and retail electricity markets.

These other electricity suppliers include cogenerators, small power producers, independent power producers, and merchant generators and power marketers. The role of power marketers, especially, has changed in today's electricity marketplace. (Enron has been the leading power marketer on the scene and in late fall experienced a financial collapse.) Power marketers traditionally do not own electrical generation, transmission, or distribution assets. Instead, they buy and sell bulk power as a commodity.

Will Enron's collapse make a difference?

The collapse of the giant power marketing company Enron has several experts questioning its impact on the future of electric deregulation. Enron, an energy trading company based in Texas, championed deregulation in energy markets nationwide. "We initiated the wholesale natural gas and electricity markets in the United States," the company boasted on its Web site.

"Enron was the most visible and ardent cheerleader of deregulation, and I think what's happened to them is going to raise all these questions about deregulation," said Jim Owen, spokesman for the Edison Electric Institute, in news reports about Enron's collapse in late November.

CBS Marketwatch, however, guessed that other power marketers will rise to fill the void. "Is the industry losing the most vocal advocate of unregulated markets? Yes," said Christine Uspenski, an analyst with Schwab Capital Markets' Washington Research Group. "But I don't think that the work that Enron has done to date will end up being wasted."

What is happening in North Carolina?

The North Carolina Study Commission on the Future of Electric Service decided to place its restructuring deliberations on hold until early 2002. Study Commission meetings were interrupted early in 2001 due to the length of the state legislative session, which occupied several members. Some members have expressed concern about implementing electricity restructuring, especially in light of failures that manifested themselves in California last summer, when high prices and rolling blackouts were blamed partially on the state's deregulation scheme.

Will California's "retail choice" program be shut down?

Californians' ability to choose their electricity providers may be suspended if a recent decision by the state's utility regulatory commission remains in effect. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in late September voted 3 to 2 to suspend consumers' "direct access" to independent power retailers. If upheld, the action would deflate the 1996 state law

intended to foster competition among power generators. One of the CPUC members, Carl Wood, was quoted in news reports to say, "Direct access is one half of a failed and collapsed deregulation project." Despite an \$80 million campaign to educate Californians about deregulation and retail choice, most utility customers stayed with their local utilities. Many large businesses, however, did make arrangements with utilities and want them to continue.

Will Massachusetts residential consumers have a choice?

One energy company — Dominion Retail Inc., a Dominion affiliate from Richmond, Va. — this fall entered the market to offer Massachusetts residential consumers a choice in power suppliers. Before Dominion Retail's appearance, no companies chose to offer a retail alternative in Massachusetts since the market opened to competition in March 1998, according to the Boston Herald.

The newspaper quoted a state government spokesman as saying that lower electric rates have made the market unattractive for new power providers. There are several companies, however, competing for commercial and industrial customers in the state's electric marketplace.

Can Michigan prevent "slamming and cramming"?

The Michigan Public Service Commission has adopted standards to protect retail electric consumers from slamming and cramming. Slamming is the unauthorized switching of a customer from one electric service provider to another, while cramming is the billing of a customer for unauthorized electric services. Under the new measures, customers may authorize switching of their electric service provider only through written authorization, a call to a toll-free telephone number voice response unit, a Web-based connection, notice to an appropriately qualified third party, or a three-way call between the new supplier, the customer and the older supplier.

The Michigan electric utilities have been opening their power supply markets to competition gradually since March 1999 and expect that 90 percent of the market will be open to competition by early 2002.

Are customers switching in Pennsylvania?

In its most recent publishing of "Electricity Shopping Statistics," the Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate reported that as of July 1, 2001, there were 591,596 customers participating in electricity open markets, compared to 787,846 in April. With rising wholesale prices, industrial and commercial customers are tending toward returning to their traditional electric utility, the report said.

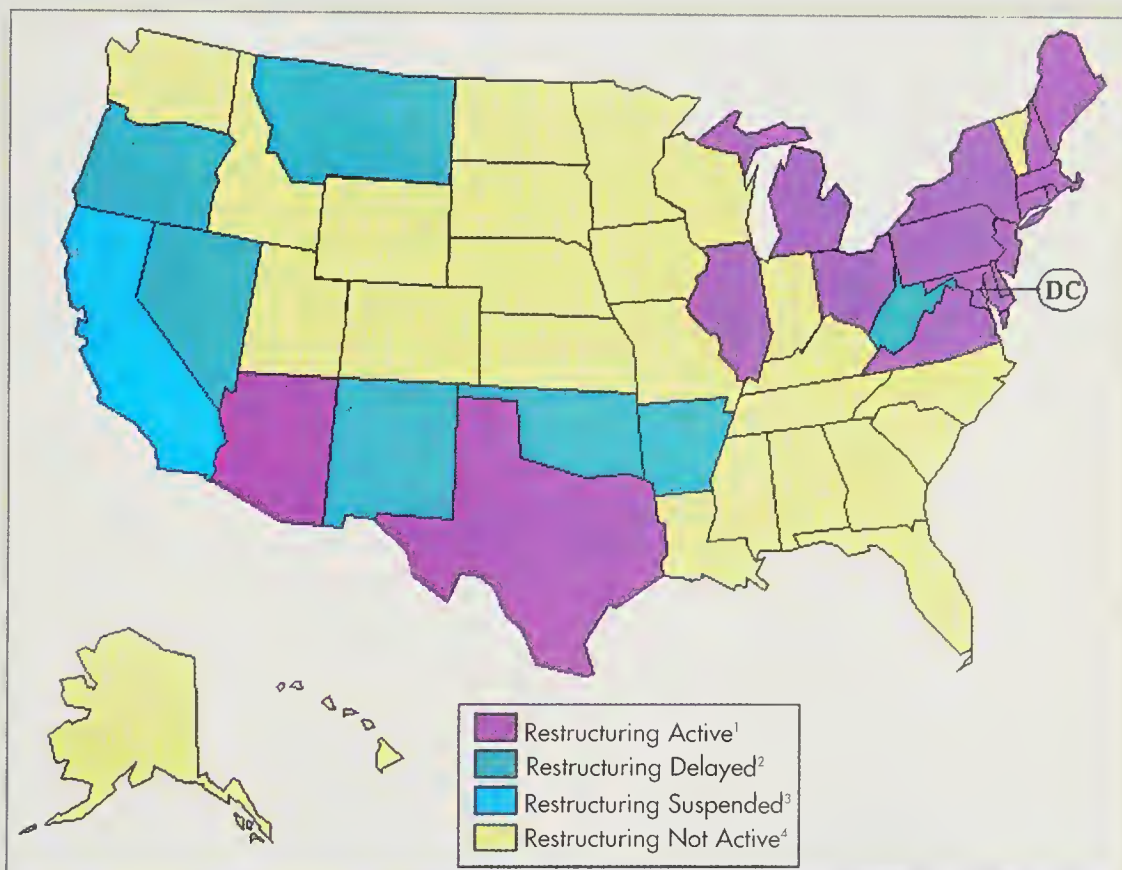
Pennsylvania's retail market has been open to competition since July 1998, and implementation is widely seen as the most successful in the U.S.

Want to contact your representative in Congress?

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) has developed a section of its Web site to allow consumers to contact their federal legislators.

Just go to <http://takeaction.nreca.org>. This Web site allows co-op consumers to easily locate and send e-mail to their representatives in Washington, D.C.

As of early December, there were two key bills—in the House and Senate—that could increase federal regulation of cooperatives and remove some consumer protections. The Web site lets you e-mail a pre-written letter about the current bills to your representative by simply typing in your zip code and signing your name.



Status of State Electric Industry Restructuring November 2001

¹These states have either enacted enabling legislation or issued a regulatory order to implement retail access. Retail access is either currently available to all or some customers or will soon be available. Some states are currently running pilot programs, and they will begin to implement retail access in the near future: Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas and Virginia.

²These states have either passed legislation or issued regulatory orders to delay implementing retail access: Arkansas, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Oregon. Although West Virginia passed legislation that approved the state's Public Service Commission's plan to restructure and implement retail access, the process is delayed until a bill for tax reform is enacted.

³The California Public Utilities Commission ordered suspension of direct retail access.

⁴These states have not enacted enabling legislation to restructure the electric power industry or implement retail access: Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Source: Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy.

How a Cooperative Preserved *Appalachian Crafts*



When industry began leaving the Cherokee County area, mountain crafters formed a cooperative to continue their work. Business has been real good.

By Spaine Stephens

A group of crafters in the mountains of North Carolina are piecing together the legacies of Appalachian art heritage—and weaving the life of the community into their cause.

The Appalachian Heritage Crafters (AHC) began as a way to maintain the history of Appalachian crafts and as a means of economic support in tough times. Together, the members of the craft cooperative have built a strong presence for their art, and are working on spreading skill throughout communities.

In 1999, some women suddenly found themselves unemployed when businesses left the Murphy area.

“Several of the people who lost their jobs got together to brainstorm ways they could utilize their skills and make money,” says Claire Price-Groff, a member of AHC.

The drive of the crafters to continue their trade, along with the help of the Asheville-based Center for Participatory Change, produced the cooperative. The AHC became a non-profit organization “seeking a way to help not only the members, but others as well, to market their crafts, and help preserve and promote their local heritage of craft-making,” according to Frances Franks, another active member of AHC.

After spending its first few months outlining a vision, gaining grant money, raising funds, and sponsoring craft shows, AHC is enjoying the rewards of its toil.

Last May, the cooperative’s retail store opened, a major milestone for the dream envisioned by the group’s creators.

“The store’s doing great,” says Price-Groff. “It’s exceeding our expectations.”

The shop at 2016 Highway 64 West in Murphy is perhaps the most pleasing result of the organization. The members’ crafts, including projects from stained glass, quilts, and jewelry to watercolors, oil art work and greeting cards, line the shelves and give visitors a sample of the variety of talents represented by AHC.

With economic success and the opportunity to practice their crafts, members of AHC are reaching beyond their craft supplies and into surrounding communities.

A program called Outreach is an ever-present feature of the cooperative’s vision. Headed by Mary Hall, one of the original initiators of AHC, Outreach takes organization members to people in the community interested in learning different crafts. The cooperative provides materials including yarn, wood, paint and the expertise to help others produce quality art. AHC sends members into homes, senior citizens’ centers, and special education classes to bring a sense of accomplishment to the community. At craft shows, AHC has displayed and sold the work of students in the special education classes, returning the proceeds to the students’ benefit. In the future, AHC may be able to work with elementary, middle, and high school age students as well.

With its growing reputation, AHC is swelling in size. The cooperative had close to 30 members at its start and now has more than 80. It temporarily closed membership in October to orient its new members. They take applications on a wait-list basis, and notify prospective members when a space becomes available.

Artists from Cherokee, Clay, Macon, and Graham counties in North Carolina; Fannin, Union, and Towns counties in Georgia; and Polk and Monroe counties in Tennessee are eligible for membership in AHC.

The cooperative also relies on support from communities and interested citizens to keep things running smoothly. Donors can specify the use of their contributions. And AHC’s presence in the communities returns tangible evidence of its work.

“What we’re hoping to get is people who appreciate what we’re doing,” says Price-Groff.

You can reach Appalachian Heritage Crafters at (828) 835-9758, or on the Web at: <http://ahccrafts.weblogs.com>. The store address is 2016 Highway 64 West, Murphy, NC 28906.

Spaine Stephens will graduate with a B.A. in English from North Carolina State University this spring.

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“5148 Hwy 8”

By Dempsey Essick

When the 18-inch-wide, heartwood pine boards were cut and the barn on the Sink farm was built in the early 1900s, Cotton Grove Road was a washboard rough, dirt road, barely two lanes wide, used by southern Davidson County farmers to move their produce north to the Lexington market.

Today, the road is paved but not much wider, and the heartwood boards on the barn have taken on a distinguished shade of grey. The tin roof has a fine brown patina, and the building is a landmark for boaters and fisherman on their way south to a lake access ramp at Southmont.

The old Sink barn at 5148 NC Hwy 8, south of Lexington, is one of those subjects I've had on my mind since 1988, when I did a painting of the nearby Cotton Grove Country Store as a Christmas present for my wife, Shelley. That painting became my first limited print and led to my art career.

The barn is still in use today. I painted it on a winter morning when a light snowfall highlights the old building and a curious young calf is captivated by the artist at work.

The Essick Gallery is issuing a special offer to Carolina Country readers for a framed miniature print of “5148 Hwy 8.” The overall size is 10 by 12 inches, with the image size at 5 by 7 inches. It is doubled matted, professionally framed and signed by the artist. The cost is \$44.99, which includes tax, shipping, delivery confirmation and handling. Allow four weeks for processing. Contact The Essick Gallery, P.O. Box 1149, Welcome, NC 27374-1149. Phone: (336) 731-3499. Web site: www.dempseyessick.com.

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Martin Luther King

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I, too, have fallen in love with American names – North Carolina names like Pumpkintown and Puzzle Creek, Possumtrot and Lizard Lick, Loafers Glory, Whynot and Spot.

Many U.S. cities have "adopted" sister cities in other countries. I suggest that Tar Heel communities consider doing the same with their neighbors in our state.



Many of them make natural pairs. Liberty in Rowan County and Justice in Franklin. Cognac in Richmond County and Toddy in Pitt County. Daybook, Ledger, and Index. Crisp and Toast and Frying Pan Landing. Hasty and Speed. Center and Bottom. Price, Cash Corner, and Prosperity.

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Lemon Springs, Fruitland, and Cherry Grove. Love Valley, Middlesex, Love Knob and Climax. How about Love Joy and Devotion? And Chuckle – I don't want to leave out Chuckle. I hope the folks living there and in Riley have a good life.

The brief names have a charm of their own. Creek and Spray, Ocean and Surf, Waves and Wood and Wise. And Duck and Turkey.

It is hard to put an end to this sort of thing. Who could willingly omit Horsebone Gap and Whalebone, Shinbone

and Clubfoot creeks and Scaly; Black Jack and Winfall, Star and Sunburst, Tuxedo, Suit, and Calico.

Many of the names our ancestors chose are not fancy, you will notice. They called 'em like they saw 'em – Hogtown, Devils Tater Patch peak and Hell's Half Acre (later changed to Providence!), Devils Gut stream and Chunky Gal mountain, Tar Heel and Tobaccoville, Farmer and Rural Hall.

They are all here. You will find them on a map if you look hard – these and scores more. They all make up a part of what we mean when we say, "I like calling North Carolina home."

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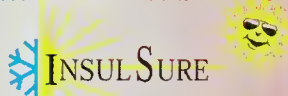
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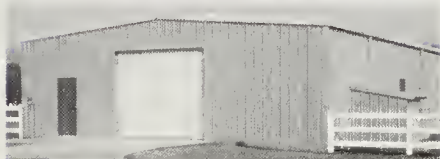
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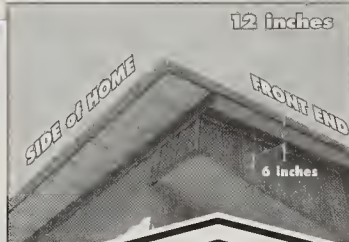
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Do you really need all that *speed*?

Speed has played a key role with computers since the inception of the digital age in the 1940s. The role of electronic machines in our life, after all, is their ability to carry out computational procedures faster than humans.

But speed is not always what it's cracked up to be. On the other hand, speed is sometimes given short shrift. Understanding the differences can help you make smart PC buying decisions and smart Web site design decisions.

The central processing units of today's run-of-the-mill personal computers are faster than those of multi-million dollar mainframe computers that were leading us into the future in the 1960s and 1970s. PCs today are 10 times more powerful than they were just five years ago.

This mind-boggling increase in processing speed was predicted and codified in 1965 by Gordon Moore, who would become the co-founder of Intel, when he said that the number of transistors per square inch on integrated circuits had been doubling and would continue to double every year.

Though this doubling would later slow from every year to every 18 months, the increase in capacity has continued, and it's emblematic of the personal computer revolution. It's an increase that's unprecedented in other spheres of human endeavor.

To those involved with personal computers, this is heady stuff, and it has led to an infatuation, even an obsession, with speed. It taps into the Western notion of progress, of ever-increasing efficiency, output and standards of living.

The infatuation is misguided. "Speed is an artificial need," says Rob Enderle, an analyst for the Giga Information Group, a market research firm in Santa Clara, Calif. "It's analogous to cars with big engines. Bigger is not always better. Neither is faster."

There's a countervailing notion here, more Eastern in nature, of appropriate technology. In practical terms, very few people today need the very fastest PCs, those that run the Intel Pentium 4 2.0 GHz CPUs, which have recently reached the market, or the equivalent chips from AMD or Motorola.

For common tasks such as word processing, spreadsheets, business graphics, Web surfing and e-mail, slower and less expensive central processing units are more than adequate. On the other hand, if you're engaged in CPU-intensive tasks such as high-end image editing, video editing, digitizing music, or computer-aided design, the high end can be cost-effective.

Other factors besides cost-effectiveness, however,

can enter a buying decision. A high even number such as 2.0 GHz, or 2 billion cycles per second, is psychologically compelling in the same way as a .400 batting average or a Dow of 10,000.

Still, on the whole, the importance of CPU speed is overrated, the single most overrated aspect of personal computing today.

The single most underrated speed element today is the time it takes Web pages to load. Sure, it's widely known that a high-speed cable or DSL modem can dramatically improve the quality of your surfing experience. In fact, the biggest PC speed bottleneck for the past several years hasn't been CPU speed but modem speed, a bottleneck that won't disappear until high-speed Internet access become universally available.

What's not as widely known is that even with high-speed access, slow-loading Web pages can still be a problem. The Web won't be truly efficient until browsing from one page to the next is as speedy as browsing pages in a newspaper or magazine.

A recent study by market research firm Jupiter Media Metrix underscores the importance of fast-loading Web pages. The study found that 40 percent of people will visit a site more often if its pages load faster, while only 20 percent are interested in multimedia or rich media features, which load much slower than text and simple graphics.

Some Web page designers look at flashy technologies such as Shockwave as a way to make their sites look hip and cutting edge. Yet many Web page visitors look at these technologies as cloying eye candy that just slows them down.

People on the Web have short attention spans. This is the age of VCRs and microwave ovens. People don't want to wait to get what they want. If you force them to cool their heels at your Web site, gratification elsewhere is just a click away.

That's why the best Web sites are simple, and why simple Web sites are more likely to be around in the future. Jakob Nielsen, author of the new book "Homepage Usability: 50 Websites Deconstructed," says, "On the Web, you have design Darwinism — survival of the easiest."

The theme here is technology for people, not for technology.

Reid Goldsborough is a syndicated columnist and author of the book "Straight Talk About the Information Superhighway." He can be reached at reidgold@netaxs.com or <http://members.home.net/reidgold>.



January EVENTS

MOUNTAINS (west of I-77)

Schiele Museum of Natural History

Ongoing events, Gastonia
Jan. 2-4, Kid's Photography
Workshop
Jan. 19, Pamlico Joe Family
Concert, (704) 866-6900
www.schielemuseum.org

Asheville Art Museum

Ongoing events, Asheville
Through Jan. 6, "Steichen and
Sandburg: Artistic and Family
Ties"
Through Feb. 6, "Raffael
Guastavino: Barcelona to Black
Mountain," (336) 368-2248

Old Fort Mountain Music

Every Friday, Old Fort
Bluegrass and mountain music
Rockett Building, 7 p.m.
(828) 652-3330

Furniture Makers of the Southern Highlands Craft Guild Exhibition

Jan. 2-April 7, Asheville
Folk Art Center, Blue Ridge
Pkwy., (828) 298-7928

Wood & Metal Artists

Jan. 7-Feb. 25, Hendersonville
The Center for Craft, Creativity
& Design, Kellogg Conference
Center, Mon-Fri., 1-5 p.m.
(828) 890-2050

Childhood-Themed Paintings

Jan 9-10, Jefferson
Ashe County Arts
Council, free
(336) 246-ARTS

The Exact Center of the Universe

Jan. 11-27,
Asheville
Asheville
Community Theatre
\$15/\$10, (828)
254-1320

First Annual Paranormal Weekend

Jan. 11-13,
Asheville
Learn how to hunt
ghosts.
The Grove Park Inn
Resort & Spa, (828)
252-2711

WNC Racers Swampmeet

Jan. 12, Asheville
WNC Agricultural
Center
(828) 697-1122

None of the Above Bluegrass Band

Jan. 12, Mt. Airy
Tim Frye's Pickin'
On The Creek,
(336) 786-5039

African-American Builders

Jan. 15-April 14, Asheville
Smith-McDowell House
Museum, explores history and
impact of African-Americans on
architecture in NC, \$4.50/\$3.50
(828) 253-9231

Bluegrass Music Jam Session.

Jan. 17, Mount Airy.
Free every Thursday, 7 p.m.,
Andy Griffith Playhouse, (800)
286-6193, www.surryarts.org

Molasses Creek

Jan. 18, West Jefferson
Country music, 7:30 p.m.
Ashe Arts Center, \$6/\$3
(336) 246-ARTS

Wolf Howl

Jan. 23, Asheville
WNC Nature Center
Learn about wolf biology, visit
Grey Wolf habitat, refresh-
ments, 6-9 p.m., \$5/\$4/\$3
(828) 298-5600

Mark Twain's Puddin' Head Wilson

Jan. 23, Asheville
Diane Wortham Theatre
\$25/\$23/\$10, (828) 257-4530
www.dwtheatre.com

Mahalia, A Gospel Musical

Jan. 24, Spindale
Isothermal Community College
7:30 p.m., \$10/\$5,
(828) 286-9990

North Carolina Festival

Jan. 25-26, Asheville
Diana Wortham Theatre, Pack
Place, 8 p.m., \$14/\$6,
(828) 254-2621

Blowing Rock Winterfest

Jan. 25-27, Blowing Rock
Polar plunge, chili cook-off
Dog sledding, (888) 465-0366

Coffee House Talent Night

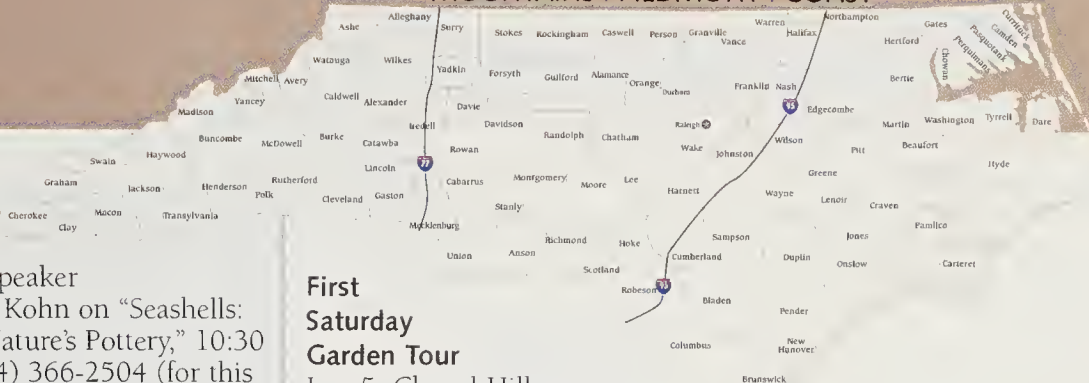
Jan. 26, Jefferson
Jefferson United Methodist
Church, 7:30 p.m., \$6/\$3
(336) 246-ARTS.



Visit the Mint Museum of Art in Charlotte to view, "The Gilded Age: Treasures from the Smithsonian American Art Museum," on exhibit Jan. 26-April 21. Painting by Abbott Handerson Thayer, "Angel," 1887.



MOUNTAINS | PIEDMONT | COAST



PIEDMONT

(between I-77 and I-95)

Mint Museum of Art

Ongoing Exhibits, Charlotte
Through April 28, "Ansel Adams: The Man Who Captured the Earth's Beauty Part II,"
Through March 31, "William Morris: Myth, Object and the Animal," (704) 337-2000
www.mintmuseum.org

Ackland Art Museum

Ongoing events, Chapel Hill
Through Feb. 17, "Young America: Treasures from the Smithsonian American Art Museum," (919) 966-5736
www.ackland.org

Granville County Museum

Ongoing events, Oxford
Through April, "Dinostories," hands-on exhibit, free, (919) 693-9706

Museum of Life and Science

Ongoing events, Durham
Through Jan., "Biodiversity 101: Saving Life on Earth,"
Through March, mongoose lemurs exhibit, (919) 220-5429, www.ncmls.org

North Carolina Museum of Art

Ongoing exhibits, Raleigh
Through Jan. 6, "Indivisible: Stories of American Community,"
Through Feb. 17, "Toulouse-Lautrec: Master of the Moulin Rouge," (919) 839-6262
www.ncartmuseum.org

Mint Museum of Craft + Design

Ongoing events, Charlotte
Jan. 15-March 31, "Findings: The Jewelry of Ramona Solberg" (704) 337-2000

Mint Museum of Art

Ongoing events, Charlotte
Jan. 26-April 21, "The Gilded Age: Treasures from the Smithsonian American Art Museum"

Jan. 15, speaker Elizabeth Kohn on "Seashells: Mother Nature's Pottery," 10:30 a.m., (704) 366-2504 (for this event only), (704) 337-2000 (general information)

Regional Museum of History

Ongoing events, Oakboro
Through mid-Jan., "Glimpses of Christmas Past," free
Jan. 13-April 2, gem and mineral exhibit, (704) 485-3612

Gunsmith Exhibit

Through Sept. 22, Winton-Salem, The Gallery at Old Salem, "Gunsmiths of Salem and the Vogler Family of Artisans," (888) OLD-SALEM
www.oldsalem.org

Greensboro Coliseum

Ongoing events, Greensboro
Jan. 11-13, RV show
Jan. 17-20, Boat show
Jan. 18-19, Bull riding
Jan. 25-26, Monster trucks
Jan. 26-27, Gun show (336) 373-7400

Bob Martin Agricultural Center

Ongoing events, Williamston
Jan. 10, John Deere Day, free, (252) 792-2182
Jan. 10, Carolina Calling Talent Search, free, (800) 637-1079
Jan. 18, 19, Truck & Tractor Pull, (252) 330-4984
Jan. 19, Bridal & Home Fair, (252) 792-1181

KwanzaaFest

Jan. 1, Durham
Durham Civic Center, African-American Dance ensemble, ethnic food, (919) 560-2729, www.durhamnc.com/acrobat/tourmap_aah.pdf

Twelfth Night

Jan. 2-20, Carrboro
The ArtsCenter, Open Door Theatre, (919) 929-2787

First Saturday Garden Tour

Jan. 5, Chapel Hill
N.C. Botanical Garden, 10 a.m., free, (919) 962-0522

Antique Guns and Military Memorabilia

Jan. 5-6, Raleigh
N.C. State Fairgrounds
\$5/\$1, (704) 282-1339
www.TheCarolinaTrader.com

Boxcar Children

Jan. 8, Winston-Salem
Stevens Center, 7 p.m., musical
\$12/\$10, (336) 721-1945

Hammered Dulcimer Session

Jan. 10, Raleigh
Meredith College, 106 Wainwright Hall, free, (919) 990-1900, www.pinecone.org

African-American Arts Festival

Jan. 11-March 18, Greenboro
Various locations, (336) 373-7523

Second Sunday Reading

Jan. 13, Chapel Hill
Wilson Library, UNC campus
Ocracoke fiction writer Susan Dodd, Statesville poet Joseph Bathanti, 2:30 p.m., free, (919) 962-3461

Boys of Walltown

Jan. 13, Raleigh
N.C. Museum of History
3-4 p.m., (919) 990-1900

Mezzo-soprano Susan Graham

Jan. 14, Charlotte
Wingate University, 7:30 p.m.
\$15, (704) 233-8300

Carolina Brass

Jan. 17, Mocksville
Brock Performing Arts Center
7 p.m., \$8/\$6, (336) 751-3000

Ronda Vincent and the Rage

Jan. 18, Oakboro
Oakboro Music Hall, 8 p.m.
\$15, (704) 485-3649

The Old-Time Square Dance

Jan. 19, Denton
West Salisbury St., 7-10:30 p.m.
(336) 475-9397

Martin Luther King, Jr. Cultural Festival

Jan. 26, Raleigh
Jane S. McKimmon Center
North Carolina State University
Gorman Street and Western Boulevard, 12:30 p.m., (919) 834-6264

Winter Fare Cooking Class

Jan. 27-28, Pittsboro
Farrington Village Center
Chef Warren Stephens
(919) 542-2121
www.farrington.com

Brazilian Guitar Quartet

Jan. 28, Davidson
Davidson College, Nobloch Campus Center, 8 p.m.
\$15/\$10, (704) 894-2357

Southern Farm Show

Jan. 30-Feb. 1, Raleigh
500 exhibitors, N.C. State Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
free, (800) 849-0248
www.southernfarmshow.com

Writer Josephine Humphreys

Jan. 31, Davidson
Davidson College, Alvarez College Union, free
(704) 894-2441

Ladysmith Black Mambazo

Jan. 31, Durham
Carolina Theatre, 8-10 p.m.
\$25, (919) 560-3030



JANUARY EVENTS

COAST

(east of I-95)

Maritime Museum

Ongoing events, Beaufort

Jan. 16, Stargazing and Telescopes, 6-8 p.m., \$10

Jan. 19, Americal Music Festival, 8 p.m., \$17, (252) 726-3648

Jan. 19-20, Waterfowl Excursion, \$25/\$20

Jan. 22, Dolphins in North Carolina, 11 a.m.

Jan. 25, Winter Wildlife, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., \$5 (252) 728-7317

Thalian Hall

Ongoing events, Wilmington

Jan. 11, George Winston, A Solo Piano Concert, 8 p.m.

Jan. 26, Pied Piper Theatre's Bug Story, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Jan. 27, Christine Lavin in Concert, 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 31, NC Jazz Festival Preview, 8 p.m.

(800) 523.2820 or

(910).343.3664

www.thalianhall.com

Southern Girls Day

Jan. 5, New Bern

New Bern Historical Society Games, quilting, cross stitch, candle making, (252) 638-8558

Jazz Guitarist Bob Russell

Jan. 6, Wilmington

UNC-Wilmington, lecture, (910) 392-1200,

www.capefearjazz.com

Holiday Battleship Lighting

Through Jan. 6, Wilmington

Free viewing from downtown, (910) 251-5797,

www.battleshipnc.com

1897 Poe House Holiday Tour

Through Jan. 6, Fayetteville

(910) 437-2603

Members Recycling Show

Jan. 7-13, Elizabeth City

Pasquotank Art Council Gallery 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, free

(252) 338-6455

Carolina Calling Talent Show

Jan. 10, Williamston

Bob Martin Agricultural Center

7 p.m., free, (800) 637-1079

Cary Grant Classics

Jan. 11-13, Wilson

"An Affair to Remember" and "Bringing Up Baby," Boykin

Center, \$6 or 2/\$10,

(252) 291-4329

River Homes Tour

Jan. 11-12, New Bern

(252) 633-6448

Girl Scouts Day

Jan. 12, Elizabeth City

Museum of the Albemarle

Brownie activities to earn

badges, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.,

Reservations, (252) 335-1453

Vance Gilbert Concert

Jan. 13, Beaufort

Clawson's, (252) 504-2787

Martin Luther King

Day Celebration

Jan. 14, Morehead City

Crystal Coast Civic Center

(888) 899-6088

Jane Monheit

Jan. 19, Wilmington

UNC-Wilmington, Kenan

Auditorium, jazz, (800) 732-3643, (910) 962-3500

Contra Dance

Jan. 19, Beaufort

Duke Marine Lab

(252) 504-2787,

www.downeastfolkarts.org

Carroll Dashiell,

Eve Cornelious and

ECU Jazz Ensemble

Jan. 19, Oriental

Pamlico County Civic and Cultural Center

\$12, 7:30 p.m., (252) 249-

3079, www.pamlicomusic.org

Crystal Coast Bridal Fair

Jan. 19, Morehead City

Crystal Coast Civic Center

10 a.m.-5 p.m., \$5

(252) 247-3883



Through February 17, the Ackland Art Museum in Chapel Hill features "Young America: Treasures from the Smithsonian American Art Museum." Painting by Raphaelle Peale, "Melons and Morning Glories," 1813.

Model Railroad Show/Sale

Jan. 19-20, Wilmington

American Legion Post 10

Building, 10 a.m.,

(910) 270-2696

The Work of Joe Nesbitt

Jan. 20-March 31, Wrightsville

Beach, Wrightsville Beach

Museum, resident photographer

(910) 256-2569, www.wilmington.org/wbmuseum

N.C. School of Arts

Showcase Concert

Jan. 25, Wilmington

St. James Parish, free, lunch

reservations \$6

(910) 763-1628

Azalea Festival Kick-off Party

Jan. 25, Wilmington

Hilton Riverside, 7:30 p.m.-

12 a.m., \$25, beer/wine/appetizers included, (910) 794-4650

Chowder Bowl Cook-Off

Jan. 26, Wilmington

Hugh MacRae Park

Public votes on best chowder

(910) 251-0911

Oyster Roast

Jan. 26, Oriental

Oriental Woman's Club

Gilco Dr., "All you can eat"

(252) 249-2608

Albemarle Chorale Concert

Jan. 27, Edenton

"The Creation" by Joseph

Haydn and "Gloria" by Antonio

Vivaldi, Edenton United

Methodist Church, 4 p.m.

(252) 482-8581

ArtsMarket 2002

Jan. 28-30, Wilmington

Thalian Hall/Coast Line

Convention Center, (919) 733-

2111, www.ncpresenters.org/market.html

Bingo

Jan. 29, Oriental

Last Tuesday of the month

Pamlico County Civic and

Cultural Center

(252) 249-1014

LISTING INFORMATION

Deadline for March: Jan. 25

Deadline for April: Feb. 15

A phone number must be included with event listings in order to be published. Photos are welcome.

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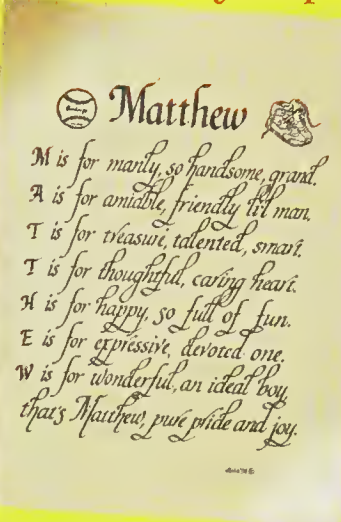
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Avoid the itches with new insulation materials

By James Dulley

There are new insulation materials that are not itchy like standard fiberglass batts you find in most home center stores. These materials are extremely effective and adding them will cut your utility bills year-round. Also, don't necessarily write off professional installation as too costly because the energy savings often pay back the cost in a reasonable period of time.

Before adding more insulation just because you think you need more, check with your local building codes department for the recommended amount for your ceiling, walls, floors, basement or crawl space. If you already have enough insulation, adding more will not save a significant amount of additional energy. The small amount of savings will not justify the expense or the consumption of the materials.

Itch-free fiberglass insulation is produced using a more complicated manufacturing procedure than standard insulation. It is completely wrapped in a poly-film covering so you hardly touch the fiberglass itself. Although it looks like standard itchy insulation, it feels like fluffy cotton balls when you cut the ends of the rolls to length.

This itch-free insulation is made by fusing two different forms of glass into the individual insulation fibers. This fusion process causes each tiny fiber to curl and twist randomly to eliminate the itch-producing ends. These twisted fibers are springy and resilient, so they are compressed, making the insulation rolls look small at the store. When you unroll the insulation in an attic or on a wall, the fibers quickly fluff up to full thickness.

Another new type of itch-free insulation is a blend of recycled cotton and denim from blue jean production. It is a natural product and really does look like shredded blue jeans. The denim material is treated with chemicals to give it a high residential fire-resistance rating. The insulation value per inch thickness is similar to fiberglass batts, but it is more densely packed making it easy to handle and position in walls.

In addition to the itch-free fiberglass insulation material mentioned above, several other types of standard (itchy fibers) insulation are also encapsulated in poly-film wrap. This makes it is easy to handle and install without getting itchy. Since you must slice the wrap when you cut it to length, you may have some contact with the itchy fiber, but very little. No matter what type of insulation you are working with, it is wise to wear gloves, long sleeves, pants and some sort of breathing mask.

When insulating an existing wall or around plumbing

and electrical obstructions during construction, it is important to fill it completely with no voids (unfilled areas). Just a small percentage of voids can result in a significant energy loss. Make sure the insulation is also packed tightly. Even though most fiberglass batts have a very light coating of adhesive on the fibers to keep them fluffy, almost any do-it-yourself insulation material will settle somewhat.

Using a professionally-installed, non-settling type of insulation is often the most effective method in these areas with obstructions. One type of non-settling insulation uses blown-in fiberglass fibers mixed with strong adhesives. After it is blown into the wall cavity to fill all the gaps, the adhesive sets up to eliminate settling. When installed in new walls, nylon netting is stapled over the studs and the insulation is blown in behind it.

Another type of effective professionally-installed, non-settling insulation is low-density polyurethane foam. It has about the highest insulation value per inch thickness of any material, so it is ideal for locations with limited space. Immediately after it is sprayed, its volume expands about 100 times, creating millions of microscopic insulating cells. It fills in effectively around most obstacles inside a wall. When it foams up during installation, the cell structure it creates is closed so it also seals air and moisture leakage spots inside the wall.

When buying insulation, remember you are paying for the R-value insulation level, not just the thickness. Insulation can be fluffed to be thicker, but it still has the same, or lower, R-value. Any insulation contract should specify the final installed R-value of the insulation.

Write for (instantly download - www.dulley.com) Utility Bills Update No. 448 - buyer's guide of 10 insulation material manufacturers, R-values, sizes, features, insulation selector guide and a U.S. map showing recommended insulation levels. Please include \$3.00 and a business-size SASE. James Dulley, Carolina Country, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244.



Expanding foam insulation fills gaps around wiring and plumbing.

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Seasoned gardeners begin the new year anticipating 12 months of pleasure, both indoors and out. Winter planning and planting result in spring, summer and autumn enjoyment. Properly located shade trees become great landscape accents. Deciduous trees lend summer shade and allow the winter sun to warm the house. Healthy shade trees add to property value.

Hort shorts

- More shrubs are killed in winter by lack of water than by low temperatures.
- Cut back chrysanthemums every month or six weeks to keep plants compact. They will spread and produce masses of flower-producing stems.
- Make plans for spring plantings in your vegetable garden. Locate tomato plants in a new garden area to aid in controlling soil-born diseases.
- One of the few terrestrial orchids in our area, *Betilla striata* grows and flowers in full sunlight as well as total shade.
- Plants covered with protective plastic on cold nights need to have the plastic removed the next morning. Excessive heat built up beneath the plastic can stimulate tender new growth too soon.
- Wisteria vines grown from seeds usually require several years before blooming. For faster results, select grafted plants or layers rooted from flowering specimens.

Evergreen and deciduous trees

Among the many evergreen trees well adapted to growth in the South: American holly, mature height 20'-30'; Lusterleaf holly, mature height 20'-30'; Foster's holly, mature height 15'-20'; Eastern red cedar, mature height 30'-40'; Leyland cypress, mature height 60'-70'; Loquat, lower and coastal South, mature height 15'-20'; and Canadian hemlock, mature height 50'-70'.

Deciduous trees include: river birch, 30'-40'; Chaste tree, mature height 10'-15', lower and coastal areas; Crape myrtle, mature height 20'-25'; Eastern redbud, mature height 20'-25'; sycamore, mature height 60'-70'; and Yoshino cherry, mature height 20'-25'.

Weeping trees

Small-scale weeping trees with limbs growing horizontally dominate groundcover beds, resembling exclamation points in the landscape. "Weepers" are more effectively placed in the open lawn, away from the competition of colorful flower beds.

Landscaped stones

Sharp declines in terrain often present a landscaping challenge. It is difficult to mow sloping, grassy lawns. A rope system must lower the lawnmower from the top of the incline to the base.

On the flip side, these areas can represent bonuses. Flowering shrubs such as azaleas can be grown with success

on a slope. Quench these shrubs by dribbling water from a hose at the top of the slope. Dig the planting holes up and down, not at the angle of the slope. Borrow a Japanese tradition and plant a rock garden composed of small stones embedded in the soil. Clumps of Mondo grass provide contrast against the stones.

Buying shrubs

Purchase shrubs with the same care used in selecting lawnmowers or chairs. The plant has a landscape-designated job to do — a purpose to fulfill, similar to the machine or furniture. You'll find a profusion of plants in many different varieties, sizes, shapes and colors.

Study up on the selection of plants before making your purchase. A list of the best ornamental shrubs for the South surely would include abelia, bush winter honeysuckle (*Lonicera*), crape myrtle, Chaste tree (*Vitex*), butterfly bush (*Buddleia*), golden bells (*Forsythia*), nandina, the holly family, hydrangea, the ligustrums, firethorn (*Pyracantha*), and adapted roses and vines.

When purchasing plants, look for a good root system. Many nurseries root-prune in order to get a thicker and heavier clump of roots, which aids in transplanting. Examine the plant for signs of insect and disease damage, from tips of twigs to the ends of roots if possible. If the plant is out of leaf, examine the bark. Stems and twigs should have no broken places or bark peeled back. Examine azaleas and camellias for signs of scale.

For an excellent way to study shrubs, visit a reliable nursery. Look no further than the plants for instruction. Walk among the rows of plants and learn about them. It's also helpful to observe plants growing in neighbors' yards and public gardens where you can observe mature specimens. Keep in mind that bloom and berry are temporary displays.



Rock gardens can make slopes look good.

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Hot Cocoa Mix

- 6 $\frac{2}{3}$ cups nonfat dry milk powder
- 1 cup instant chocolate drink mix
- 1 package (5 ounces) cook-and-serve chocolate pudding mix
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup confectioners' sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup powdered nondairy creamer
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup baking cocoa

Additional ingredients:

- 1 cup boiling water
- Miniature marshmallows, optional

In a bowl, combine the first six ingredients. (The mix can be stored up to three months in an airtight container in a cool dry place.) Yield: 21 one-cup servings.

To prepare

one cup of hot cocoa:

Dissolve $\frac{1}{3}$ cup cocoa mix in boiling water. Top with miniature marshmallows if desired.



Cheeseburger Soup

- $\frac{1}{2}$ pound ground beef
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped onion
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup shredded carrots
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup diced celery
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes
- 4 tablespoons butter or margarine, divided
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 4 cups diced peeled potatoes (1 $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup all-purpose flour
- 8 ounces process American cheese, cubed (2 cups)
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups milk
- $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon pepper
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sour cream

In a 3-quart saucepan, brown beef; drain and set aside. In the same saucepan, sauté onion, carrots, celery, basil and parsley in 1 tablespoon butter until vegetables are tender, about 10 minutes. Add broth, potatoes and beef; bring to boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 10-12 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Meanwhile, in a small skillet melt remaining butter. Add flour; cook and stir for 3 - 5 minutes or until bubbly. Add to soup; bring to boil. Cook and stir for 2 minutes. Reduce heat to low. Add cheese, milk, salt and pepper; cook and stir until cheese melts. Remove from the heat; blend in sour cream. Yield: 8 servings.

Recipes are by Taste of Home magazine. For a sample copy, send \$2 to Taste of Home, Suite 4321, PO Box 990, Greendale WI 53129-0990. Visit the Web page at www.tasteofhome.com.



Old-Fashioned Chicken Potpie

- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup butter or margarine
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon pepper
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups water
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup milk
- 2 teaspoons chicken bouillon granules
- 2 cups cubed cooked chicken
- 1 cup frozen mixed vegetables

Pastry:

- 1 $\frac{2}{3}$ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons celery seed
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, cubed
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup cold butter or margarine

In a saucepan, melt butter. Stir in flour, garlic, salt and pepper until blended. Gradually stir in water, milk and bouillon. Bring to boil; boil and stir for 2 minutes. Remove from the heat. Stir in chicken and vegetables; set aside. For pastry, combine flour and celery seed in a bowl. Cut in cream cheese and butter until crumbly. Work mixture by hand until dough forms a ball. On a lightly floured surface, roll two-thirds of dough into a 12-inch square. Transfer to an 8-inch square baking dish. Pour filling into crust. Roll remaining dough into a 9-inch square; place over filling. Trim, seal and flute edges. Cut slits in pastry. Bake at 425 degrees for 30 or 35 minutes or until crust is golden brown and filling is bubbly. Yield: 6 servings.



Electric Cooperatives Support the North Carolina Burn Center

North Carolina's electric cooperatives hosted a golf tournament in September 2001 that raised approximately \$48,492 for the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center.

The "Learn Not to Burn" program directed by the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center sends specialists to make presentations to schools, fire departments, senior citizens, Jaycess and other service groups. Many serious

injuries and fatalities are prevented each year because children and adults learn not to burn.

Listed here are the major donors to the golf tournament.

The cooperatives also are very grateful to the many other businesses and individuals who contributed to the success of the tournament.

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